

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-11 (Cancelled)

103 12 (Currently amended) A liquid-crystal switching or display device comprising a chiral smectic liquid-crystal mixture in monostable alignment, characterized in that the ratio  $\Delta/\Theta$  of the angle between the rubbing direction and the smectic layer normal to the tilt angle in the liquid-crystal mixture is at least 0.41. ~~or in that the liquid-crystal mixture has the phase sequence I-N-C and the angle  $\rho$  between the rubbing direction and the monostable position is at least  $1^\circ$ , or in that the liquid-crystal mixture has the phase sequence I-N-C and the difference of the tilt angles, measured at  $15^\circ\text{C}$  and  $5^\circ\text{C}$  below  $T_c$ , wherein  $T_c$  is the upper limit of the range of existence of the optically active smectic phase which is less than  $9.5^\circ$ .~~

13 (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal switching or display device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the liquid-crystal mixture has the phase sequence I-N-C and the tilt angle  $\Theta$  at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  is between  $19^\circ$  and  $39^\circ$ .

14 (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal switching or display device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the mixture has a spontaneous polarization of less than  $150 \text{ nC/cm}^2$ .

15 (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal switching or display device as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the device is an active-matrix or passive-matrix display.

16 (Previously presented) A liquid-crystal switching or display device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the chiral smectic liquid-crystal mixture has the following properties:

phase sequence I-N-C and

$T_c$  is greater than  $50^\circ\text{C}$  and

wherein  $T_{NI}$  is phase transition temperature from the nematic to the isotropic phase less than 105°C and

$19^\circ < \text{tilt angle (25}^\circ\text{C)} < 39^\circ$  and

spontaneous polarization less than 150 nC/cm<sup>2</sup> and

pitch of the cholesteric helix greater than 2  $\mu\text{m}$  and

the difference of the tilt angles measured at 15°C and 5°C below  $T_c$ , the upper limit of the range of existence of the optically active smectic phase, is less than 9.5°.

17 (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the chiral smectic liquid crystal mixture comprises of nitrogen- or sulfur-containing heterocyclic compounds in an amount which is at least 20% by weight of total said mixture.

18 (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 17, characterized in that the chiral smectic liquid crystal mixture comprises at least one sulfur-containing heterocyclic compound which is a thiophene derivative.

19 (Cancelled)